

Department Name	Assigned Counsel Program
Account(s)	1172

Department Function
The Assigned Counsel Program (ACP) is one of the three indigent defense programs in Albany County. The ACP's mission is to improve the quality of indigent representation by providing resources, training, and support to independent panel attorney's representing indigent clients. The Assigned Counsel Program works collaboratively with the Albany County Courts, the State of New York, and the panel attorneys themselves to optimize their service to indigent clients. By providing the attorneys on the Panel with the training and support to secure vital services essential to their client's defense, the Assigned Counsel Program endeavors to facilitate exemplary representation to those most in need of it.

Current Year Highlights
- Presented at events hosted by the NYS Office of Indigent Legal Services (ILS) on data collection and inter-municipal collaborations. The ACP led the organizing of the Capital Group—a groundbreaking partnership between four assigned counsel programs in the region dedicated to optimizing legal representation for their clients. - Developed a data collection system to fulfill ILS' requirements that was recognized as an "innovative" approach by the New York State Office of Indigent Legal Services. - Expanded and launched multiple training programs and centralized resources to better serve the 256 panel attorneys and their clients such as the Panel Attorney Investigator Program, which has increased use of investigation services by 200%. - Renovated our headquarters to reflect the culture and core values of client-focused indigent defense, allowing ACP to provide space for Panel attorneys to congregate and meet clients, utilizing funding provided by New York State.

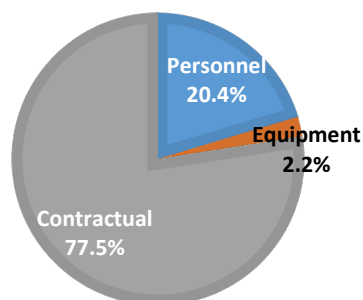
Next Year Projects
- Develop a "Resource Attorney Program" in which Panel Attorneys will be able to work together to optimize their representation in complex matters. - Increase our presence and involvement in addressing indigent defense matters in Albany County Family Court. - Launch a "Mentoring Program" geared to prepare younger attorneys to expand their practice into assigned counsel work by pairing them with a team of experienced attorneys. - Develop a series of continuing legal education programs specifically developed for attorneys who work as Panel Attorneys on assigned counsel panels.

Link to Website	www.albanycounty.com/ACP
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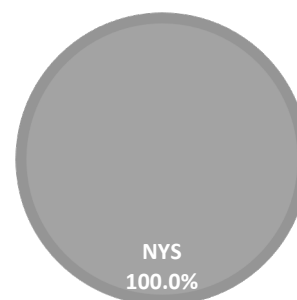
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Financial Charts

FORECASTED COSTS, BY TYPE



FORECASTED REVENUES, BY TYPE

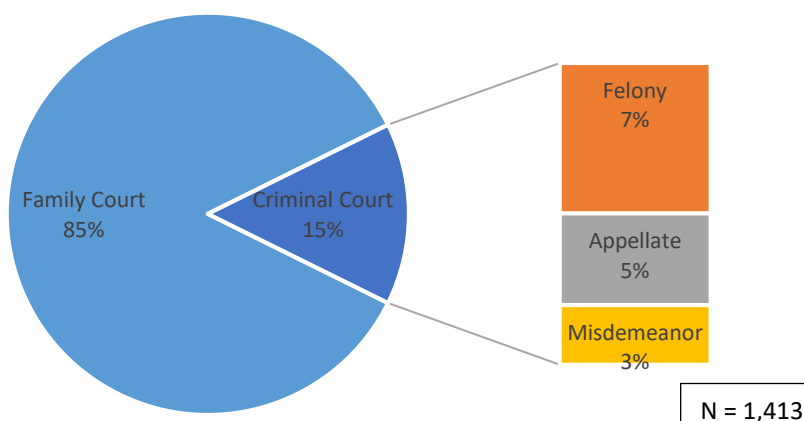


The Assigned Counsel Program's (ACP) primary annual expenses are contractual and cover panel attorney's vouchers, for-hire investigators, mentoring, client services, training, a cloud-based case management system, and other services that are procured. Personnel costs are for administration, supervisory roles, and support staff who contribute to indigent defense in Albany County by providing resources, training, and support to the independent panel attorneys.

Revenues received by the ACP are completely from New York State, the bulk of which are grants from the Office of Indigent Legal Services including funding for the Statewide Implementation of the Hurrell-Harring settlement. Revenues are budgeted at \$1.30 million for 2023. The 2023 Budget has a forecasted County Share of \$1.05 million for the Assigned Counsel Program.

Programmatic Highlights

Albany County Assigned Counsel Program Average Annual Cases by Court



The Assigned Counsel Program represents clients in approximately 1,413 cases annually. The vast majority of these cases are under the jurisdiction of Family Court. However, the primary source of funding for ACP is the Statewide Implementation of Hurrell-Harring, which cannot be used in Family Court, even though the bulk of ACP's costs are derived from Family Court.

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